



April 12, 2007

Charitable Gaming  
Directive No. 4.04.02

## **Millionaire Party (Fixed Limit Texas Hold'em)**

### **BACKGROUND**

Millionaire Party Rule 406(5) states in part: "All of the following millionaire party equipment and games are authorized: (e) Card games approved in writing by the bureau." This directive approves Fixed Limit Texas Hold'em (Texas Hold'em) as a millionaire party card game and establishes instructions for its conduct.

### **DEFINITIONS**

1. "Betting Interval" means the period of play when each player has an opportunity to bet, Check, Raise, Call, or Drop.
2. "Big Blind" means a mandatory bet (typically twice the amount of the Small Blind) placed by the player to the left of the Small Blind position before any cards are dealt.
3. "Board Cards" means the community cards dealt face up in the middle of the table which may be used by all players in constructing a standard five card poker hand.
4. "Burn" means to discard the top card from the deck, face down.
5. "Call" means a player places enough chips into the pot to make his or her contribution equal to the contribution of any other player, but no greater.
6. "Check" means a player remains in the Round of Play but does not wish to place a bet, provided no previous player has made a bet during that Betting Interval.
7. "Dealer Button" means an object used to designate the player in the dealer position if that player were actually dealing the cards.
8. "Drop", also known as fold, means a player discards his or her Hand and no longer participates in the Round of Play.
9. "Equipment" means the standard 52-card decks of playing cards used for the conduct of Fixed Limit Texas Hold'em.
10. "Hand" means any combination of two Pocket Cards and/or five Board Cards that are used to create a standard five card poker hand.
11. "Hi/Lo" means a variation of Texas Hold'em in which the highest and lowest poker Hands split the pot (prohibited, see 29).
12. "Light Betting" means withdrawing chips from the pot to indicate how much a player owes the pot (prohibited, see 30).
13. "Management" as used in Act 382 of the Public Acts of 1972, as amended, and the Millionaire Party Rules means the handling of cash, chips, sales, house rakes, and completion of game records (see 26).
14. "Pocket Cards" means the two cards dealt face down to each player that can only be used by that player in constructing a standard five card poker hand.

15. "Raise" means a player places enough chips in the pot to Call, plus one or more chips.
16. "Round of Play" means the period of play commencing with the first card dealt by the dealer and concluding with the awarding of the pot.
17. "Sidepot" means a new pot(s) established by the dealer after a player has bet all remaining chips and additional bets have been placed (optional).
18. "Small Blind" means a mandatory bet (typically half the amount of the Big Blind) placed by the player immediately to the left of the Dealer Button before any cards are dealt.
19. "Wild Card" means a card that may serve as any other suit or value in making a poker hand (prohibited, see 31).

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

20. Texas Hold'em shall be conducted with Equipment that is owned by the licensee, donated to the licensee, rented from a licensed supplier, or rented from a location owner/lessee under a bureau approved rental contract.
21. Texas Hold'em shall be played with a standard 52-card deck.
22. Texas Hold'em shall be played at tables large enough to accommodate a dealer and up to 10 players in such a manner as to ensure that the players may examine their cards without disclosing their value to other players.
23. If more than one millionaire party license is issued for the same date and location, the following provisions shall apply:
  - a. Each licensee shall use chips that are clearly distinguishable from the other licensee's chips.
  - b. Each licensee shall complete its own set of bureau-provided game records and financial statement.
  - c. Each licensee shall deposit its proceeds from the millionaire party into its own financial account.
  - d. A worker who is at a location where more than one licensed millionaire party is being conducted on the same date may only receive compensation from one licensee.
24. A location owner, shareholder of a privately held corporation, partner, officer, agent, or employee of a for-profit location shall not:
  - a. Participate as a player in any gaming event being conducted under the millionaire party license at that location.
  - b. Participate as a dealer in any gaming event being conducted under the millionaire party license at that location.
25. A supplier, shareholder of a privately held corporation, partner, officer, agent, or employee of a supplier shall not:
  - a. Participate as a player in any gaming event being conducted under the millionaire party license for which the supplier is providing Equipment or services.
  - b. Participate as a dealer in any gaming event being conducted under the millionaire party license for which the supplier is providing Equipment or services.

26. Except when dealing the cards, only bona fide members of the qualified organization holding the millionaire party license may perform the following Management duties:
  - a. Counting, distributing, handling, selling, or redeeming chips (including floor sales).
  - b. Receiving, handling, or counting cash.
  - c. Collecting the house rake.
  - d. Paying out cash prizes.
  - e. Completing the millionaire party game records and financial statement.
27. All cards shall be dealt by a millionaire party worker.
28. A player shall not bet on more than one Hand in any Round of Play.
29. Hi/Lo games are prohibited. Winners shall be determined by the highest ranking poker combination.
30. Light Betting is prohibited.
31. Wild Cards are prohibited.
32. If a player does not have enough chips to complete the Round of Play, a Sidepot may be created or the licensee may allow the player to purchase additional chips.
33. Dealers shall not sell chips to players.
34. Players shall not sell or redeem chips with another player.
35. Any dispute concerning the licensed event shall be referred to the chairperson of that event.

#### **HOUSE RAKE**

36. The house shall collect its house rake using one or more of the following methods which shall be posted in the house rules:
  - a. A required ante contributed by each player prior to each Round of Play.
  - b. A percentage of the pot after completion of the last Betting Interval.
  - c. A fixed amount of the pot after completion of the last Betting Interval.
  - d. A fixed amount paid by each player based on the amount of time the player sits at the table.
  - e. Any other method as approved in writing by the bureau.

#### **GAME CONDUCT**

37. All suits have the same rank. The rank of cards, from highest to lowest, shall be ace, king, queen, jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, except as provided in 57(a) where the ace may be counted low.
38. The dealer must shuffle the cards prior to each Round of Play.
39. If the house rake is based on a required ante, the dealer must collect the ante from each player.

40. Prior to the first Round of Play, the dealer shall place the Dealer Button in front of the player immediately to the dealer's left. The dealer shall move the Dealer Button to the next player in a clockwise direction prior to commencing each subsequent Round of Play.
41. The player immediately to the left of the Dealer Button shall post the first mandatory bet, commonly referred to as the Small Blind, before the beginning of each Round of Play.
42. The player immediately to the left of the Small Blind position shall post the second mandatory bet, commonly referred to as the Big Blind, before the beginning of each Round of Play.

**NOTE:** If there are only two players at the table, the player with the Dealer Button shall post the Small Blind and the other player shall post the Big Blind.

43. All cards shall be dealt in a clockwise direction beginning with the player immediately to the left of the Dealer Button.
44. The dealer shall commence Betting Interval 1 by dealing one card to each player face down, then a second card to each player face down.
45. Each player may examine his or her Pocket Cards at any time.
46. Each player shall keep his or her Pocket Cards in full view of the dealer at all times and must ensure that the cards are examined in a manner that does not disclose to other players their value. Players may not exchange information concerning their Hand.
47. Players that Drop from the Round of Play shall not reveal their Pocket Cards.
48. Betting for interval 1 shall proceed as follows:
  - a. The player immediately to the left of the Big Blind position is the first to act and must Call, Raise, or Drop.

**NOTE:** If there are only two players at the table, the player with the Dealer Button is the first to act and must Call, Raise, or Drop.

- b. Betting continues in a clockwise direction until each player has an opportunity to Call, Raise, or Drop with the exception of the player in the Big Blind position who may Check if no other player has Raised.
49. The dealer shall commence Betting Interval 2 by Burning a card and then dealing three Board Cards face up in the middle of the table, commonly referred to as the Flop.
50. Betting for interval 2 shall proceed as follows:
  - a. The player immediately to the left of the Dealer Button is the first to act and must bet, Check, or Drop.
  - b. Betting continues in a clockwise direction until each player has an opportunity to bet, Check, Call, Raise, or Drop.
51. The dealer shall commence Betting Interval 3 by Burning a card and dealing one Board Card face up, commonly referred to as the Turn.
52. Betting for interval 3 shall proceed as in 50.
53. The dealer shall commence Betting Interval 4 by Burning a card and dealing one Board Card face up, commonly referred to as the River.
54. Betting for interval 4 shall proceed as in 50.

55. Upon completion of four Betting Intervals:
- If only one player remains in the Round of Play, (i.e., all but one player has Dropped), the player is not obligated to show his or her Hand.
  - If two or more players remain in the Round of Play:
    - It shall be the obligation of the player who made the last Raise to show his or her Hand.
    - If no player has Raised, it shall be the obligation of the player who placed the first bet to show his or her Hand.
    - If no player has placed a bet, it shall be the obligation of all players to show their Hands.
56. Any combination of a player's Pocket Cards and/or Board Cards may be used to construct a standard five card poker hand.
57. The dealer shall:
- Determine the winning Hand(s) among the remaining players and declare the winner(s) in accordance with the following ranking of poker combinations:

Royal Flush	is a Hand containing an ace, king, queen, jack, and 10 of the same suit.
Straight Flush	is a Hand containing five cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking. An ace may count high or low.
4 of a Kind	is a Hand containing four cards of the same rank.
Full House	is a Hand containing "3 of a Kind" and "1 Pair".
Flush	is a Hand containing five cards of the same suit but not in consecutive ranking.
Straight	is a Hand containing five cards of consecutive rank regardless of suit. An ace may count high or low.
3 of a Kind	is a Hand containing three cards of the same rank.
2 Pair	is a Hand containing two pairs.
1 Pair	is a Hand containing two cards of the same rank.
High Card	is a Hand that does not contain 1 Pair or better.
  - Resolve ties in the following manner:
    - In the event of equal ranking poker combinations of 4 of a Kind, 3 of a Kind, 2 Pair, or 1 Pair, the high card not used in the poker combination shall break the tie.
    - If a tie cannot be broken, the pot shall be split equally.
  - If the house rake is based on the methods described in 36 (b), (c), or (e), the dealer shall collect the house rake as specified in the house rules.
  - Award the pot(s) to the player(s) with the winning Hand(s).
58. The dealer shall collect all cards and shuffle them prior to the next Round of Play.
59. The dealer shall move the Dealer Button to the next player in a clockwise direction.

## **MISDEAL**

- 60. No misdeal may be called after the first Betting Interval is completed.
- 61. In the event of a misdeal, additional antes or blinds shall not be required.

## **HOUSE RULES**

- 62. House rules must be in accordance with Millionaire Party Rule 407 and shall also contain the following information:
  - a. The amount of the blinds.
  - b. The bet limit(s).
  - c. The method for collecting the house rake (see 36).
  - d. Whether a player may purchase chips during a Round of Play.
  - e. Whether Sidepots are permitted.
  - f. The following statements:
    - i. Raises are limited to three per Betting Interval.
    - ii. Light Betting is prohibited.
    - iii. Wild Cards are prohibited.
    - iv. Hi/Lo variations of Texas Hold'em are prohibited.
    - v. Chips may not be sold or redeemed between players.
  - g. All other information essential to a player's understanding of how the licensee will conduct Texas Hold'em.
- 63. House rules must be printed on paper no less than 8 ½ by 11 inches in size and in sufficient number for distribution to all interested persons.
- 64. House rules shall not be in conflict with the act, rules, or directives of the bureau.

Signed copy available upon request

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Gary C. Peters, Lottery Commissioner

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Date